



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

December 19, 2021

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Don't Let the Lights Go Out!

One of my favorite things about this time of the year is experiencing the beauty of Christmas lights. Ordinarily only dimly lit by dull street lamps, towns are now awash in brilliant displays of holiday cheer. So much more joyful than the rest of the year!

Eventually, however, those lights will be taken down, packed up, and put away again until next December. One of my least favorite times of the year is when those lights—and the accompanying joyful attitudes—are hidden for 11 months. Too bad! Wouldn't it be great if they stuck around all year long!

Even more sadly, some Christians only let their lights shine during special occasions. Currently there is a surging wave of good will toward our fellowman as we all seek to do something good for those in need. But what if we didn't just drag our Christian lights out only for holidays?

Jesus told His disciples that they were the light of the world (**Matt. 5:14**). Accordingly, He told them, "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven*" (**Matt. 5:16**).

Certainly we should do all the good we can during the holiday season, but let's refrain from packing up our Christian lights and putting them away for the rest of the year. The world needs the light of the church and God's word shining in the darkness! Will you be a light for Christ 365 days in the coming year?

Matt Clifton
Judsonia church of Christ
Judsonia, AR

How Bad Can I Be?

With the winter holidays just around the corner, we will all be seeing items and hearing stories related to the season. As such, I just read about the fact that there is a website known as emailsanta.com where young ones may write an electronic letter to the North Pole. Several letters from these innocent children were funny, but one stood out to me. Christian, age seven, wrote:

“Mommy and Daddy say I have not been very good these past few days. How bad can I be before I lose my presents?”

This letter reflects an attitude often displayed by “religious” adults. We ask, *“How bad can I be before I lose my salvation?”*

Clearly, the Bible teaches that it is possible for a man, who has really and truly been saved, to sin in such a way as to forfeit his salvation. *“You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace” (Gal. 5:4).* *“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame” (Heb. 6:4-6).*

In light of this, why is it that so many seek to do “as little as possible” or “just enough to get by” when it comes to spiritual matters? Have you asked: *“Do Wednesday nights really count?”* “Can’t I use these words if I’m really mad or scared?” *“What is the smallest amount I can drop in the collection plate?”* *“How bad can I be and stay on God’s good side?”*

May I suggest that it all boils down to lack of love? It is a lack of love felt for our God. It is a lack of understanding just how deeply and sincerely our God loves us.

Consider the attitude of Paul: *“We are ruled by Christ’s love for us. We are certain that if one person died for everyone else, then all of us have died. And Christ did die for all of us. He died so we would no longer live for ourselves, but for the one who died and was raised to life for us” (2 Cor. 5:14-15—CEV).*

If we truly understood how much God loves us we would, like Paul, be motivated to a life of loving and positive action! We would never dream of asking, *“How bad can I be?”*

Bart Warren
South Green Street church of Christ
Glasgow, KY